

The Finan Center—Mental Retardation Unit, which opened October 23, 1978, was established to serve the residential needs of retarded adults in Allegany and Garrett counties in accordance with Article 59A, sec. 19, of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Mental Retardation Unit at the Thomas B. Finan Center, a multipurpose health facility, provides occupational, physical, speech, and hearing therapies, social services, and medical supervision to its clients.

The major goal of the Unit is to habilitate clients to the point where they may be returned to various community settings of a less restrictive nature. The service capability is for fifty clients.

GREAT OAKS CENTER

Clifford P. Lockyer, *Director*

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Great Oaks Center was established by Chapter 556, Acts of 1967, as the Metropolitan Washington Retardation Center. It adopted its present name in 1971. Great Oaks Center opened in the fall of 1970 to serve mentally retarded persons from Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties. Great Oaks was the first regional center to be initiated by the Mental Retardation Administration.

The first phase of construction provided care and training for 300 mentally retarded residents and a thirty-bed infirmary. The second phase of construction was completed in September 1974, providing living and programming space for an additional 270 residents (Code 1957, Art. 59, sec. 19).

A full range of comprehensive and diversified services and programs are provided by the Center to all retarded individuals, including respite care, for the counties served. Services and programs in the areas of education, training, and habilitation are programmed in both the Center and in the community for the facility's retarded residents.

A day care program integrates into the programs and services offered by Great Oaks mentally retarded persons from the five counties. A Continuum of Services Team serves several outreach functions in the community such as training parents in their homes to deal with the special problems of their children so that

institutionalization may be averted, working with teachers in local schools to aid them with the education and training needs of their mentally retarded students, assisting county health departments and community agencies in the development of resources for the mentally retarded, and follow-up with discharged residents to maintain them in the community.

HIGHLAND HEALTH FACILITY

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A Mental Retardation Unit and a Psychiatric Screening and Evaluation unit at Baltimore City Hospital's "D" Building were created by statute, admitting their first patients in November 1972.

The services provided by the Mental Retardation Unit are designed to provide intensive habilitation for physically handicapped mentally retarded persons between three and sixteen years of age. The major emphasis is on mobilization training for both nonambulatory and partially ambulatory retarded individuals. The Highland Facility is budgeted for ninety-nine mentally retarded residents and forty-seven psychiatric residents.

A special education program was established in October 1975, which focuses on the special problems and needs of mentally retarded residents of the Highland Health Facility.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

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Boards and commissions assure quality health care by administering licensure and certification programs for the health professions and carry out regulatory and inspection activities as prescribed by law. The activities of the boards and commissions are supported by General Fund appropriations, with revenue derived from examination fees, and other fees returned to the State's General Fund.